

"It's a thrill to see that the nation of Japan has a secret collection of hopelessly insane artists who, like myself, choose comics as their way of expressing their insanity."

**- PETER BAGGE
CRAZY CARTOONIST**

"This is great stuff. A world obviously influenced by what we love best: rock & roll. If you want the 'real deal' on Japanese comics this is the book."

**- SUPER SNAZZ
JAPANESE SUB POP
RECORDING ARTISTS**

If you think all Japanese manga are big-eyed sex bombs and Astro-Boy-style sci-fi epics, think again. This is the first collection of Japanese alternative artists to appear in English. In it you'll discover the R. Crumbs, the Julie Doucet, and the S. Clay Wilsons of Japanese comix.

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FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

SANE JOCK

JAPANESE UNDERGROUND COMICS

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

SANE JOCK



**COMICS FROM
TODAY'S JAPANESE
UNDERGROUND**



SAKE JOCK

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

p.5

HORSE HORSE TIGER

Born in 1964, Imiri Sakabashira made his comics debut in *Garo* in 1989. In 1994 his first full-length book was published.



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A HOOKER'S ROOM

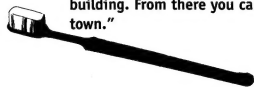
From an early age, Naoto Yamakawa considered himself an artist, but never had much respect for cartooning until the age of 15 when he saw the works of Yoshiharu Tsuge and Shinji Nagashima. Since that time he has been infatuated with the form, and has self-published (quite uncommon in Japan) many of his works. He currently makes his living as a freelance illustrator.



p.45

THE ABALONE CAT

Kiriko Nananan sent an autobiographical statement that went something like this: "As I finish this story, it's growing warm in Tokyo. Today, I dressed lightly and went for a walk that brought me to the top staircase of a nearby apartment building. From there you can see over a group of plum trees into a neighboring town."



p.65

Nekojiru's pen name translates directly as Cat Soup. Published regularly in *Garo*.



KITTY COURT DRAMA

Her comics are published



p.13

WHAT A MIXED UP WORLD!

Yasuji Tanioka was one of the most popular cartoonists of the '70s and '80s, inventing several popular catch phrases still in use today. Now in its 27th year, the Tanioka Yasuji award is considered a gateway to a successful cartoonist's career.



p.33

MILLION DOLLARS

Although he was born on the northern island of Hokkaido, Yoshiharu Mitsumoto's heart belongs to the suburbs of America. He spends his spare time following the careers of wrestlers such as Jimmy Snuka and the music of the Kinks and Van Morrison. His first feature-length book will be released this year in Japan.

p.55

KISSES • KIRIKO NANANAN

Naoki and Shunichi Karasawa are a team popular with many *Otaku* (die-hard fans) for their autobiographical stories. Naoki currently produces over 30 stories a month, published everywhere from the underground to children's magazines.



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co-translator: MARI TAMURA
editorial supervisor: GARY GROTH
cover design and production/design assistance: JEREMY EATON
cover color: JEFF JOHNSON
publishers: GARY GROTH
AND KIM THOMPSON

Thanks to Yukiko Oyama, who worked harder to make this book happen than anyone else. You're the coolest!



INTRODUCTION

The content of most comics the world over has never much differed from their American counterparts in subject matter if not in style: super heroes or their equivalent, sophomoric genre-bound stories. We all know that comics have always been pretty much a boys' club, and most young men (no matter where they're from) want to read about flying robots and teenage kung fu sex queens. This kind of stuff is crammed down our throats at an early age, and while the ingredients differ from place to place, it all tastes suspiciously like fast food to me.

In Japan it sometimes seems as if the overriding consideration to a cartoonist is that the length of time it takes to read a story not exceed the average Tokyo commute, and it's hard to condemn these aspiring young artists for conforming to this commercial requirement; after all, a successful strip can earn television appearances, animated feature films, celebrity, and most importantly, a lotta yen.

Unfortunately, most of the artists featured here are living quite a different lifestyle. They've endured long hours and low-rent apartments in order to create their own personal visions. For the past 30 years a monthly magazine called *Garo* has been the main showcase for Japanese cartoonists who won't (or can't) prostitute their talent. It's a great that such a magazine exists in Japan, but most American comics readers know nothing of Japanese alternative comics. Alternative comics artists and their publishers throughout the world need to help each other gain a wider audience because we're all in the same boat, broke and underappreciated. This collection of underground Japanese comics is an attempt to shrink the global village a little and introduce the West to the growing Japanese alternative comics scene few of us even knew existed.

As we head toward the 21st century other cultures become more accessible to us and while you probably wouldn't want to travel to Japan to meet this oddball crew, you should find it fun spending the afternoon with them in the comfort of your own living room.

Adam Glickman,
Editor



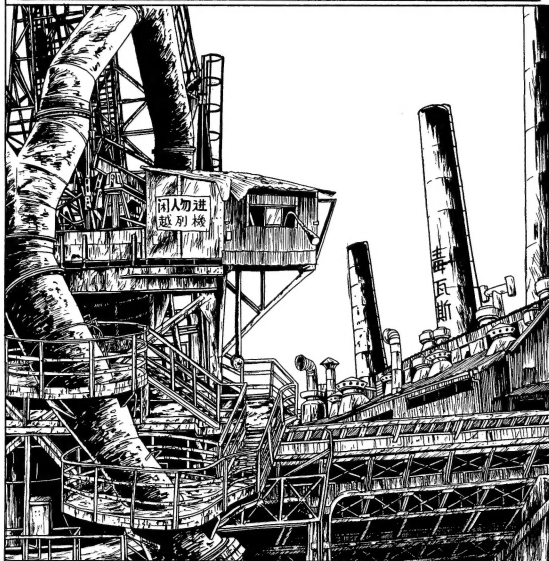
马马虎虎

HORSE

HORSE

TIGER

TIGER

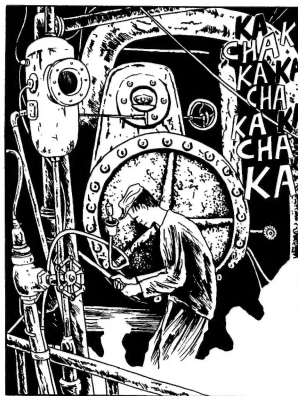
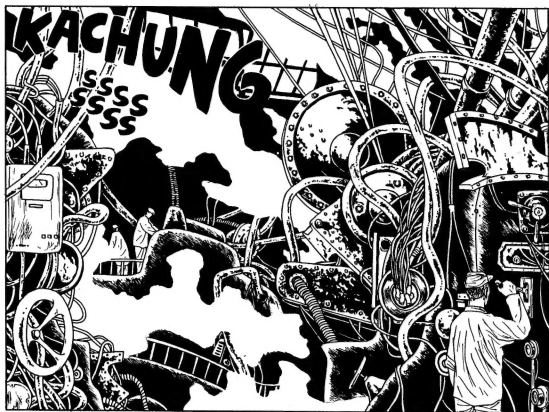


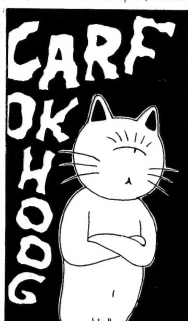
逆柱

SAKABASHIRA
IMIRI

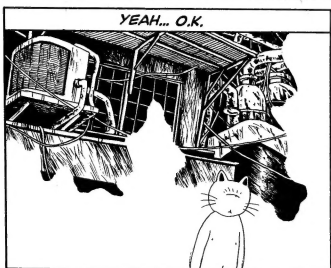
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GO DOWN TO CHINA TOWN AND GET
ME SOME HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE!





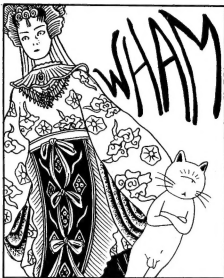


THAT HUGE FISH IS ONLY \$1.78! THAT'S DAMN CHEAP!

IT KINDA SMELLS LIKE SHIT!



PROBABLY ROTTEN.



WHAT THE HELL?

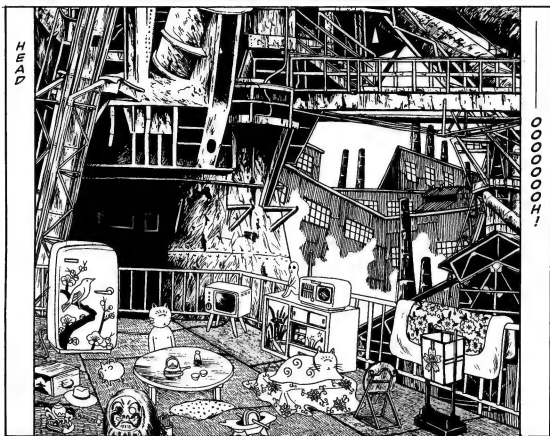


YEAH, IT'S JUST SKIN AND INNARDS.

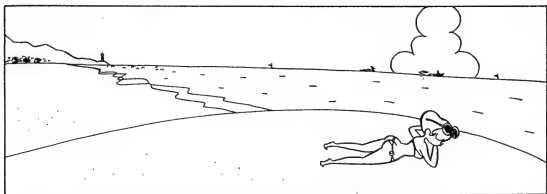


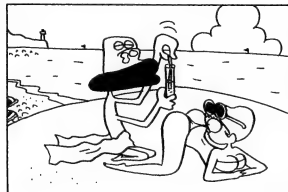
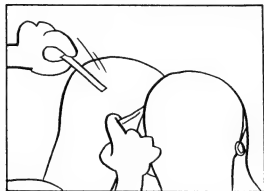
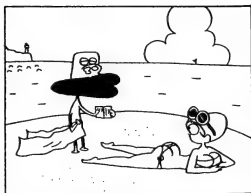
GIMME THAT BLACK GOAT'S HEAD.

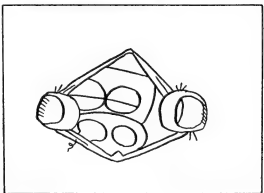
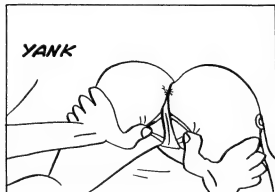
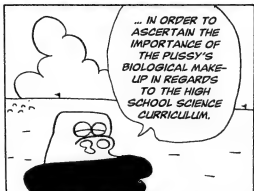
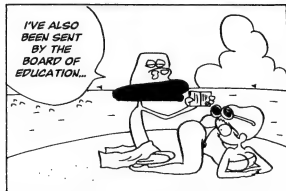
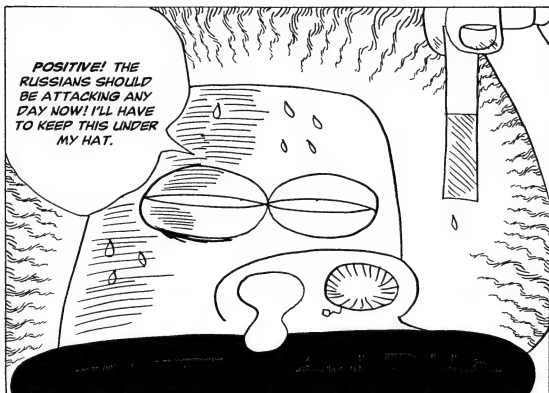


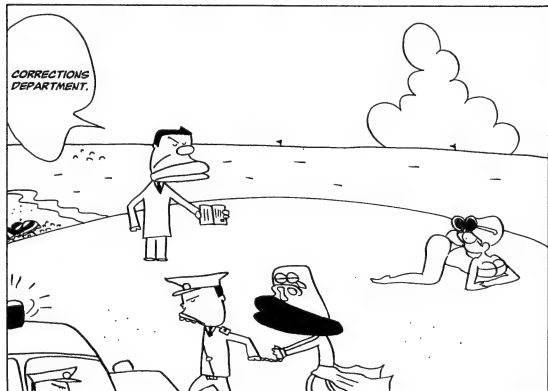
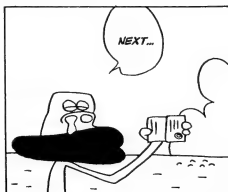
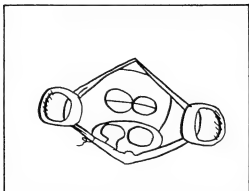
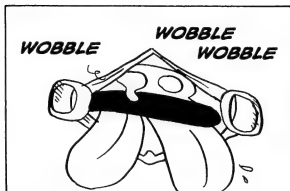


WHAT A MIXED UP WORLD!

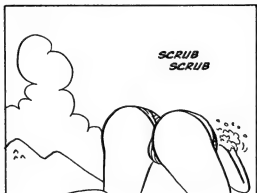
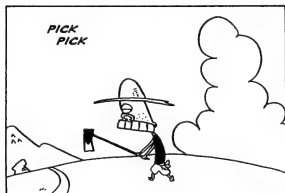
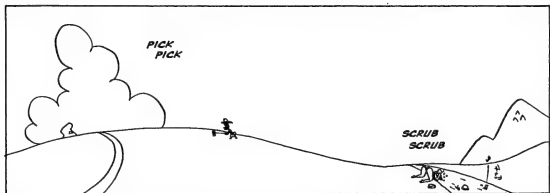


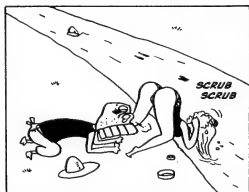
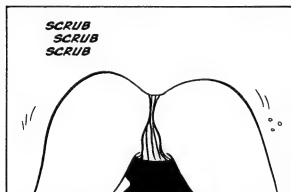
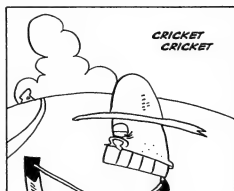
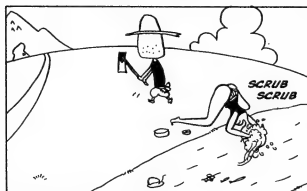
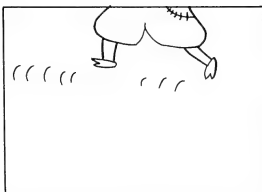
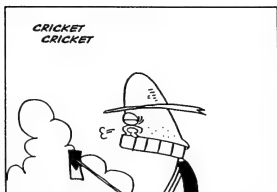


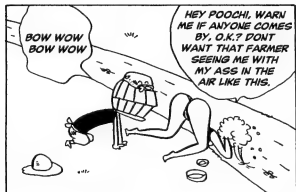
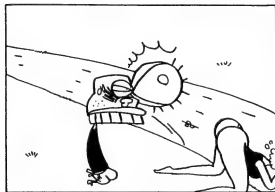
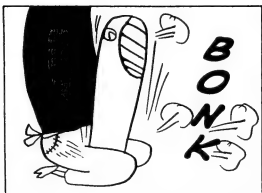


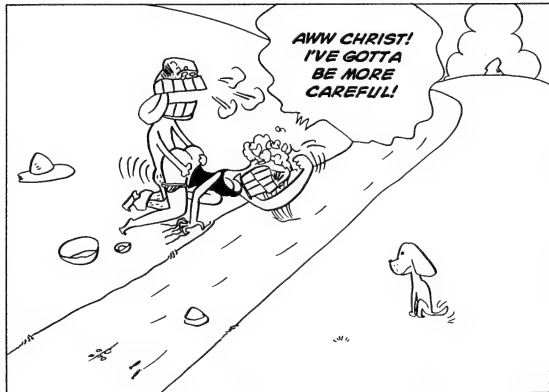
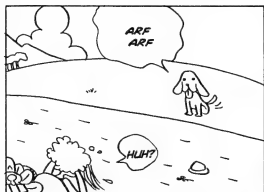
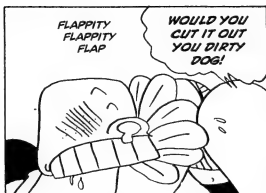


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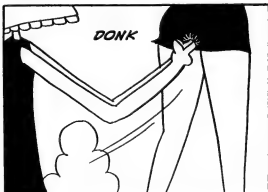
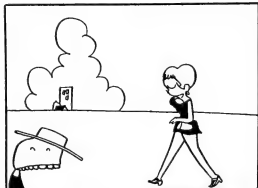
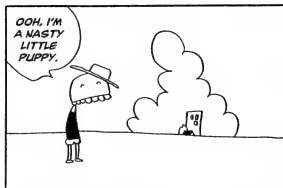


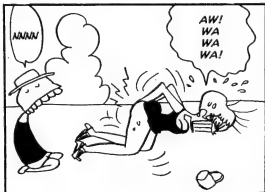
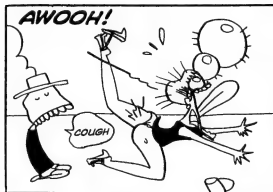
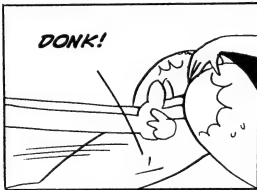
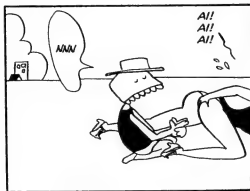
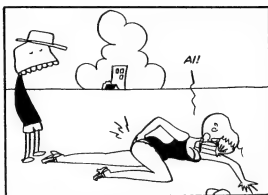
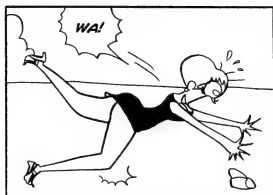


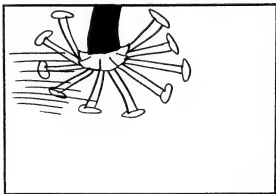
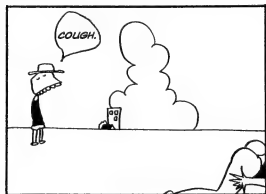
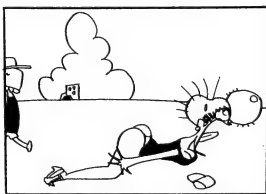
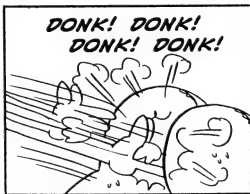
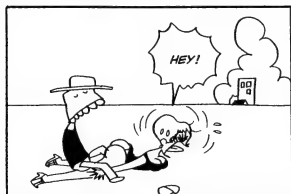
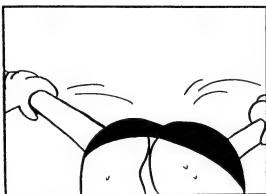


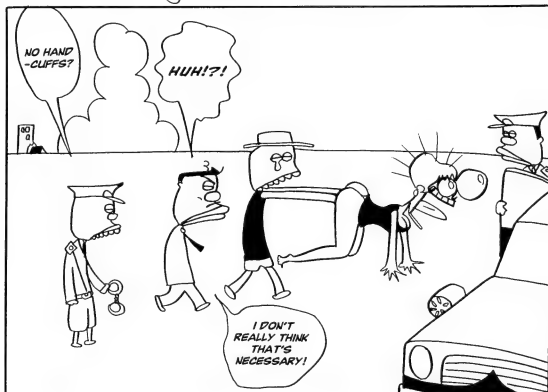
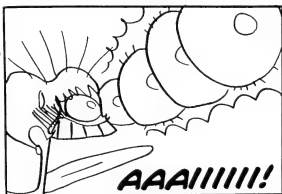
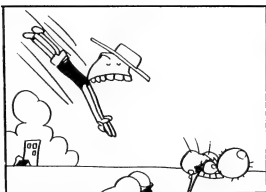


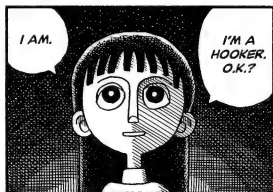
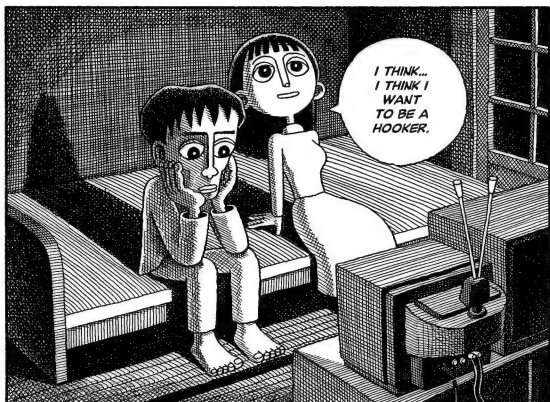
WHAT A MIXED UP WORLD!



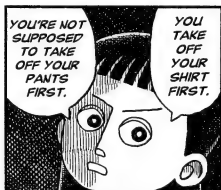








A HOOKER'S ROOM



The Proper Way To Undress



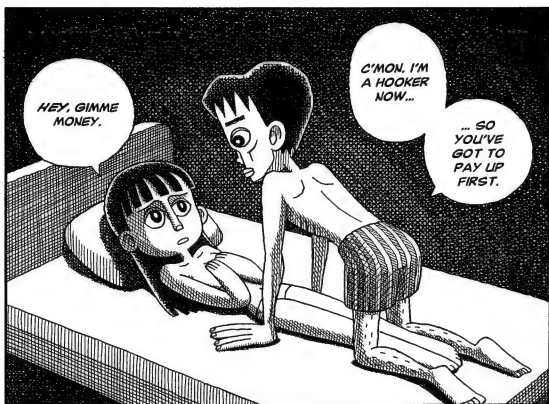
I'M RIGHT.
DON'T
ASK ME
WHY.

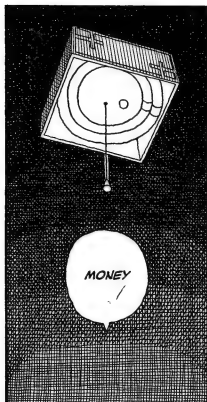


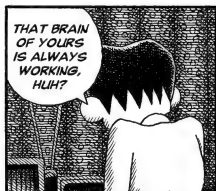
WELL...



I GUESS
MAYBE
YOU
ARE.

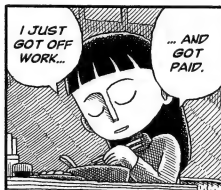


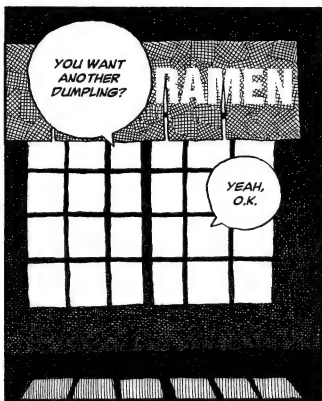


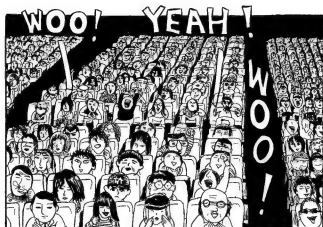


RAMEN

DINNER'S
ON ME.







... AND NOW TO
INTRODUCE
THE "GREAT,
ROMANESQUE,
WILD, BORNEO
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL"
GRAND PRIX
WINNER.



DIRECTOR,
HOW DO
YOU FEEL
ABOUT
RECEIVING
THIS
GREAT
HONOR?



HMM...
LET'S
SEE...

I'D LIKE MY AUDIENCE TO
APPRECIATE THAT THIS
PIECE DREW
INSPIRATION FROM A
DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT
PLANE THAN THE
AVERAGE FILM.
THE RESTORATION
OF AN ANTIQUE
BEAUTY THROUGH THE
EMPHASIS OF SILENCE
AND RESTRAINT.



A TRUE
ESTABLISHMENT OF
JAPANESE IDENTITY
THROUGHOUT THE
FILM MAY OR MAY
NOT BE INTERPRETED
AS SARCASM, OR
THE ANTITHESIS
OF THE FUSION
RATIONALIZED
BY MODERN
WESTERN DOCTRINE.
... OR SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

I SEE...



BY MAKING THIS FILM,
I PAY HOMAGE, TO
THE GREAT DIRECTOR
YASUJIROU OZU.

...OOOH

ONE FINAL
QUESTION.
WHAT DOES
THE WORD
"FILM" MEAN
TO YOU?

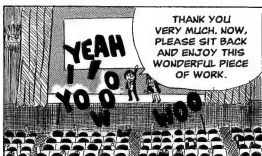


HMM-
MM...

LOVE



THANK YOU
VERY MUCH. NOW,
PLEASE SIT BACK
AND ENJOY THIS
WONDERFUL PIECE
OF WORK.



Million

Dollars



THANKS SO MUCH
FOR YOUR
PATRONAGE.
OOOH! BEAN
SPROUTS!

DON'T FORGET, WE
ALWAYS APPRECIATE
YOUR BUSINESS.
YUM! PLANTERS
PEANUTS... SUGAR
SMACKS...



YOUR
TOTAL
IS...

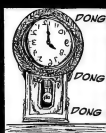
R
I
N
G

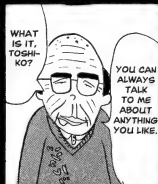
EIGHTEEN
EIGHTY,
PLEASE.

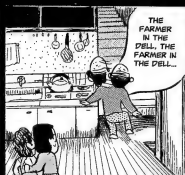


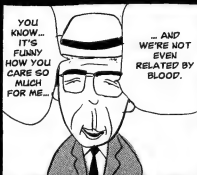


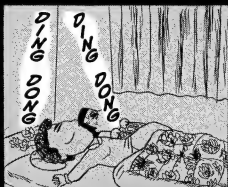


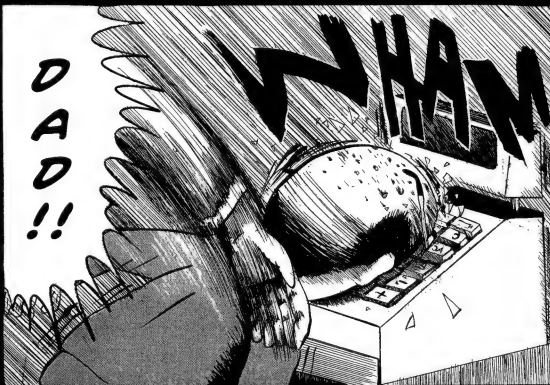












DONG



THE AUTOPSY REPORT
SHOWED THAT HIS
BRAIN HAD BEEN
HEMORRHAGING FROM
THE PREVIOUS DAY.



WHEN YOU
HIT HIM
WITH THAT
SOAP...



NO ONE CARES.
HE WAS SO OLD
EVERYONE'LL
FIGURE HE
KILLED HIMSELF
FROM DRINKING.

EVEN NOW.
HE'S STILL
A PAIN IN MY
ASS. THIS
FUNERAL'S
GONNA
COST A
FORTUNE!



BUT
WHEN
YOU...



GOOD
EVENING!



GOOD
EVENING,
MRS.
SASAKI.



I'M SO SORRY
TO HEAR
ABOUT YOUR
FATHER.
HE PASSED
ALONG SO
SUDDENLY.

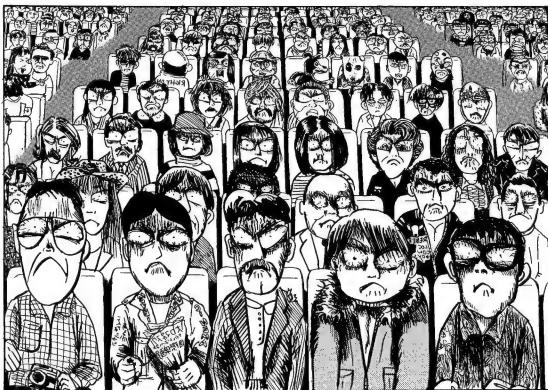


WELL,
HE HAD
BEEN SO
STEADFAST
ALL HIS
LIFE.



... BUT NOW THAT
HE'S GONE, I FEEL
AS IF MAYBE I
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN MORE
LENIENT ABOUT
HIS "MILLION
DOLLAR"
GAMES...





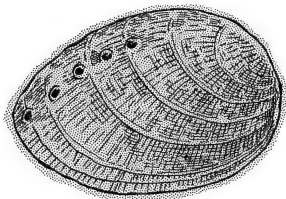
THE ABALONE CAT





CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MIGHT BELIEVE, A CAT HAS NUMEROUS WEAKNESSES. FOR INSTANCE, IF A CAT EATS A PIECE OF SQUID OR OCTOPUS, ITS LEGS WEAKEN. IF A CAT EATS AN ONION, IT WILL BECOME WEAK AND DIE.

AN ANCIENT TEACHING STATES THAT YOU MUSN'T FEED THEM ABALONE. OTHERWISE THE CAT'S EARS WILL ROT AND FALL OFF.

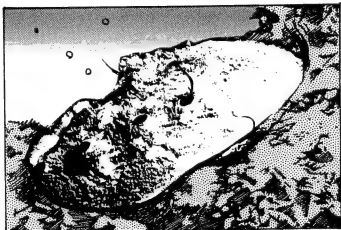


YOU'RE
PROBABLY
ALSO
WONDERING
WHY THE
CAT'S EARS
WOULD FALL
OFF, YET IT
WOULDN'T DIE.



"WHO'D FEED
A CAT
EXPENSIVE
ABALONE,
ANYWAY? "
YOU ASK?

LET ME EXPLAIN. THE
PROBLEM BEGINS IN
THE ABALONE'S
LIVER. THAT IS, THE
LIVER STORES
CHLOROPHYLL FROM
THE SEAWEED IT
EATS. THE CAT'S
STOMACH LACKS
THE ENZYME
REQUIRED TO
BREAK DOWN THIS
CHLOROPHYLL, AND
THEREFORE IT'S
ABSORBED BY ITS
BLOOD VESSELS.



AS A RESULT,
THESE THIN
BLOOD
VESSELS ARE
UNABLE TO
PROVIDE
EACH CELL
WITH THE
PROPER
AMOUNT OF
OXYGEN, AND
THEREFORE
THE EARS
FALL OFF.

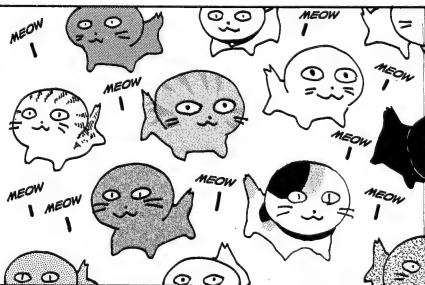


A CAT'S EARS
ARE SO THIN
THAT THE BLOOD
VESSELS ARE
VISIBLE THROUGH
THE SKIN'S
LINING. WHEN THE
CHLOROPHYLL
REACHES A
BLOOD VESSEL,
PHOTOSYNTHESIS
OCCURS, AND THE
CHLOROPHYLL
BEGINS TO
REPRODUCE
ITSELF.

... AND
THAT'S
HOW WE
GET THE
ABALONE
CAT.



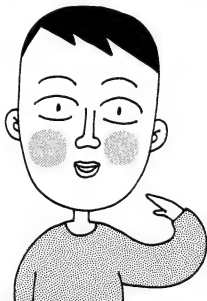
AN OLD COLLEGE
BUDDY OF MINE
USED TO WORK
AT THE TSUKIJI
MARKET. ONCE HE
CAME ACROSS
A BUNCH OF
ABALONE CATS
LIVING IN THE
WAREHOUSE.
BOY, WAS HE
SURPRISED!



I HAD
ANOTHER
FRIEND WHO
HIT HIS HEAD
IN A CAR
WRECK, AND
HAD TO BE
EXAMINED
BY A CAT
SCAN.



I GOT
PRETTY
SCARED GOING
UNDER THAT
BIG ARCH.
MAYBE THEY'D
TURN UP THE
ELECTRICITY
TOO HIGH
AND SLICE ME
IN TWO OR
SOMETHING...

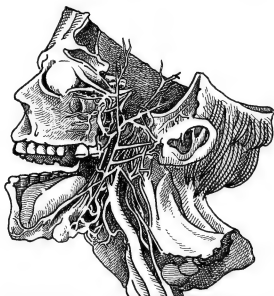


IN THE
OLD DAYS,
THEY DIDN'T
HAVE ANY-
THING LIKE
CAT SCANS.
THE ONLY
WAY TO
EXAMINE A
SECTION OF
THE BODY
WAS TO
ACTUALLY
CUT IT
OPEN!

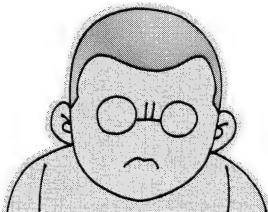


COLLEGE
PROFES-
SORS, AND
PEOPLE
LIKE THAT,
WOULD
CREATE
SAMPLES
BY SAWING
OFF BODY
PARTS!

OHGAI
MORI, THE
FAMOUS
AUTHOR,
HAD A SON
WHO ONCE
WROTE AN
INTERESTING
STORY ABOUT
TAKING A
SAMPLE
FROM THE
BRAIN'S
FRONTAL
LOBE.



BUT IN
THE 20'S,
TOKYO
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL
DIDN'T
POSSESS
A FRIDGE
LARGE
ENOUGH TO
FREEZE AN
ENTIRE
BODY ...



"... OF
COURSE
THE BODY
MUST BE
COMPLETELY
FROZEN IN
ORDER TO
REMOVE A
PROPER
SAMPLE..."

... SO
THEY'D
TAKE
THE
BODIES
OUTSIDE
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF
WINTER
AND
COVER
THEM IN
SALT
WATER.



THEN
LEAVE
THE BODY
OUTSIDE
UNTIL IT
WAS
FROZEN,
AT WHICH
POINT,
THEY'D
SIMPLY
CUT
IT UP.



HEY! THIS
SURFACE
ISN'T
SMOOTH!
MAYBE HE
STARTED
MELTING!

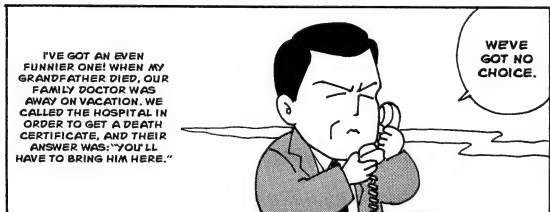
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT. YOU
PRACTICALLY
ALWAYS LOSE
A COUPLE OF
SCRAPS.



THE OTHER
DAY I SAW
AN ARTICLE
IN THE
"TOKYO DAILY
NEWS"
ABOUT
SOME
COLOMBIAN
DRUG
SMUGGLERS.

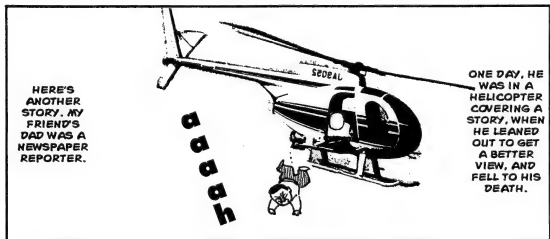
HE'S
ASLEEP.

THEY SUCCESSFULLY
SMUGGLED
DRUGS ONTO
A PLANE, BY
STUFFING
THEM INTO
A DEAD
BOY'S BODY.
...THAT
CRACKED
ME UP.

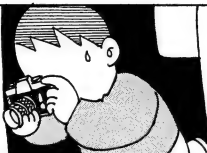


I'VE GOT AN EVEN
FUNNIER ONE! WHEN MY
GRANDFATHER DIED, OUR
FAMILY DOCTOR WAS
AWAY ON VACATION. WE
CALLED THE HOSPITAL IN
ORDER TO GET A DEATH
CERTIFICATE, AND THEIR
ANSWER WAS: "YOU'LL
HAVE TO BRING HIM HERE."

WE'VE
GOT NO
CHOICE.

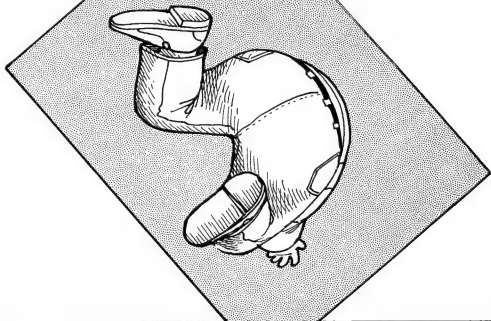


click

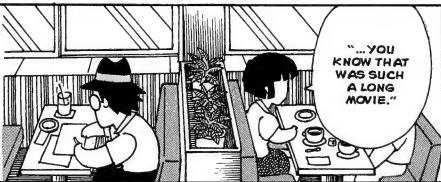


THE
CAMERA
MAN
QUICKLY
LEAPED
UP AND
TOOK A
PICTURE.

THE LAST PICTURE OF HIS
DAD'S LIFE LOOKED
LIKE THIS...



AT THE MOMENT
I'M SITTING IN
A SHINJUKU
COFFEE SHOP,
AND I'M TRYING
TO FINISH THIS
STORY, BUT
THE PEOPLE
BEHIND ME
ARE REALLY
DISTRACTING.



"...YOU
KNOW THAT
WAS SUCH
A LONG
MOVIE."

"...YEAH, THE MAIN CHARACTER... AH, WHAT'S HIS NAME... AH, YEAH! HESTON... CHARLES HESTON! HE PLAYED CHRIST. NO, WAIT, IT WASN'T CHRIST. MOSES, THAT'S IT! HOW COULD I FORGET THAT? SO HE LEADS HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EYGPT. WAIT... WAS IT EYGPT? THERE WERE PYRAMIDS SO IT MUST'VE BEEN EYGPT. BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABOUT JESUS BECAUSE THE MOVIE TOOK PLACE BEFORE CHRISTIANITY. YEAH, THAT WAS STUPID. ... SO THIS PART'S GREAT! THE KING COMES, AND ALL THE EYGPTIANS GO "YEEAH!" AND THE SEA DIVIDES IN TWO RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE. HA! HA! WHAT? THE NAME OF THE SEA? I DONT KNOW. ...WAIT! IT WAS THE MEDITERRANEAN!



THE
ABALONE
CAT





KISSES • KIRIKO NANANAN

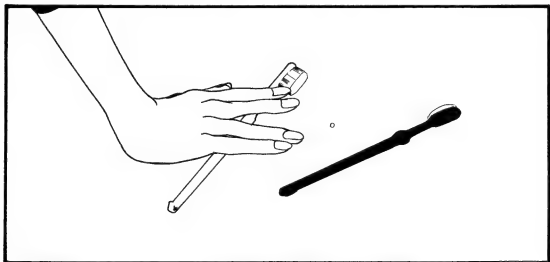
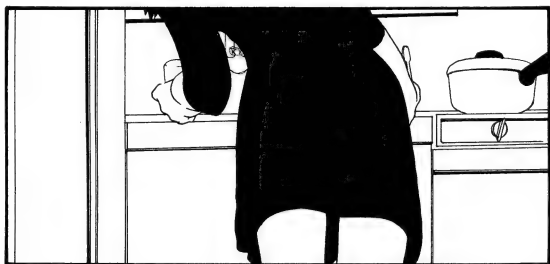
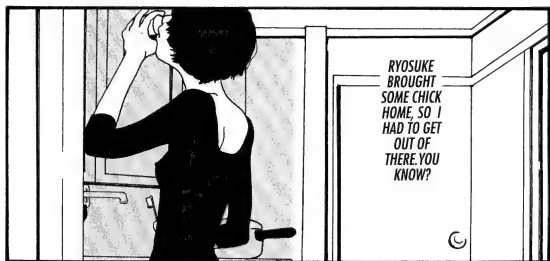
A HA HA HA HA

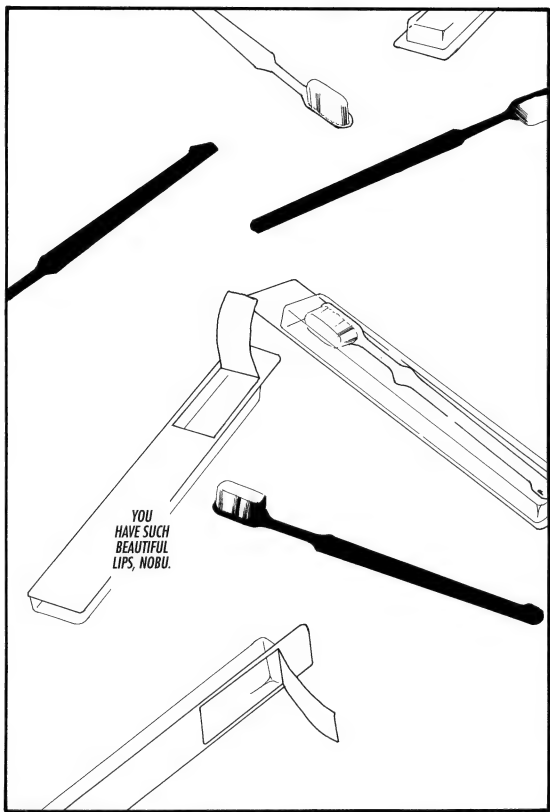


NOBU!
HEY,
NOBU!







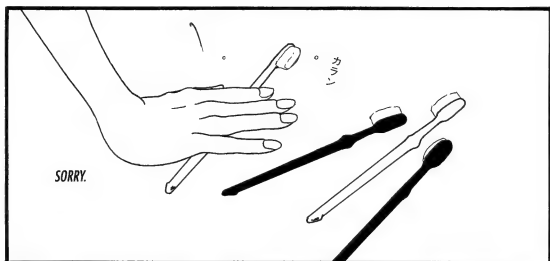


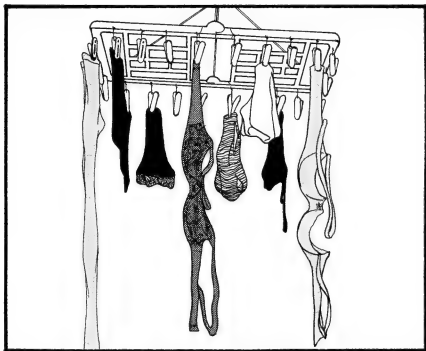
YOU
HAVE SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
LIPS, NOBU.



AYU, YOU SHOULD
NEVER FALL FOR
AN ASSHOLE
LIKE THAT. I
ALREADY MADE
THAT MISTAKE, O.K.?



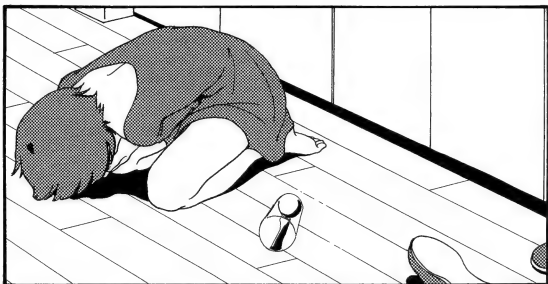




*SO MANY TIMES. SO MANY TIMES I CAN'T EVEN
COUNT. THE PAIN IS INCREDIBLE. LIKE MORNING
SICKNESS, YET I VOMIT MOUTHFULS OF WHITE
BUBBLES AND BLOOD.*

*IT RUNS FROM THE MIDDLE OF MY
SPINE TO MY THROAT AND I CAN'T SEE
THROUGH IT TO FIND MY HEART.*

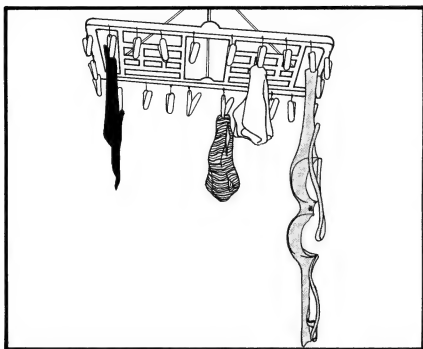
**DON'T
GO.**



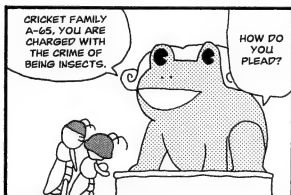
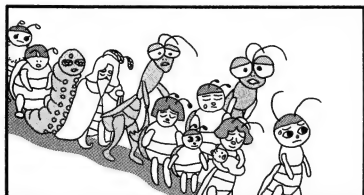
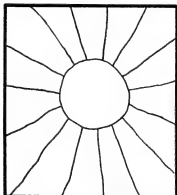
**IT'S KIND OF FUNNY,
NOBU. YOU'LL USE MY
GOOD-BYE GIFT WITHOUT
EVEN KNOWING IT.**

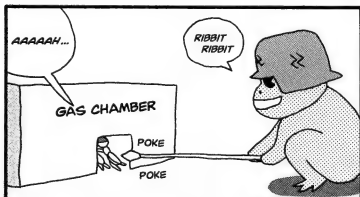
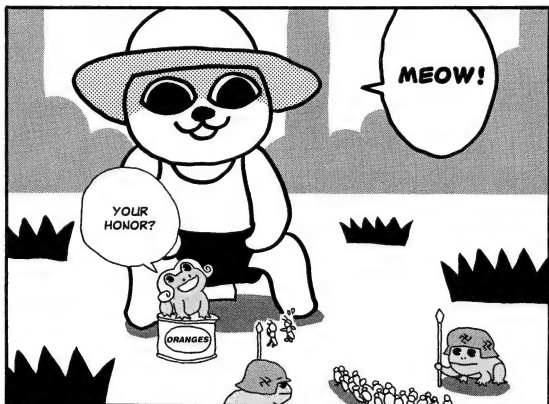


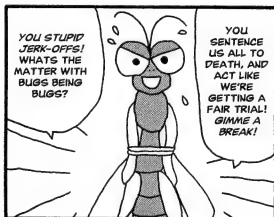
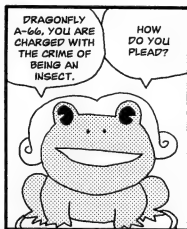
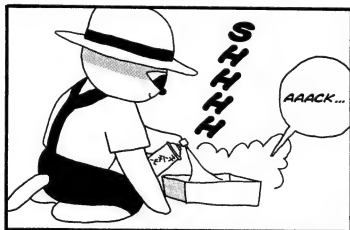
*COMPLETELY UNAWARE AS
I COVER YOU IN KISSES.
... I LIKE THAT.*

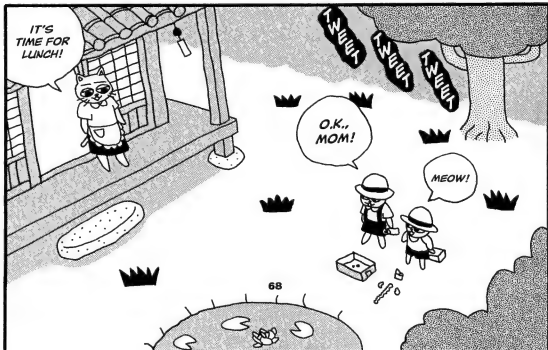
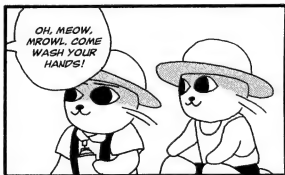
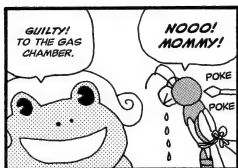


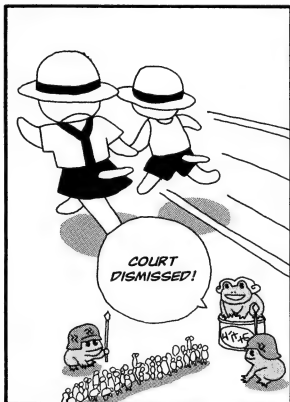
kitty court drama

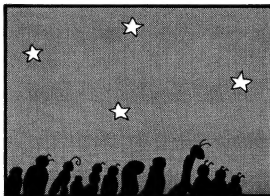
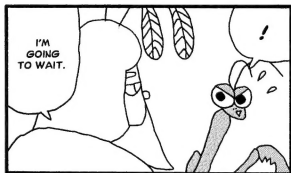


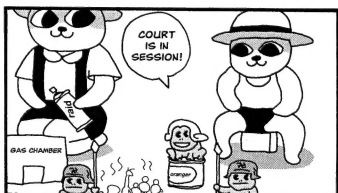
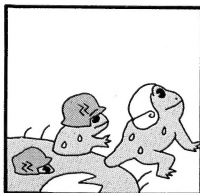
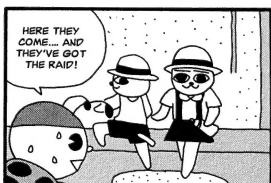
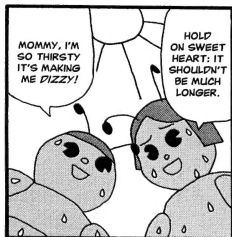
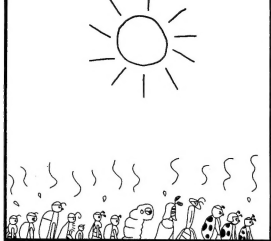
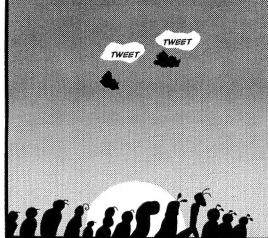


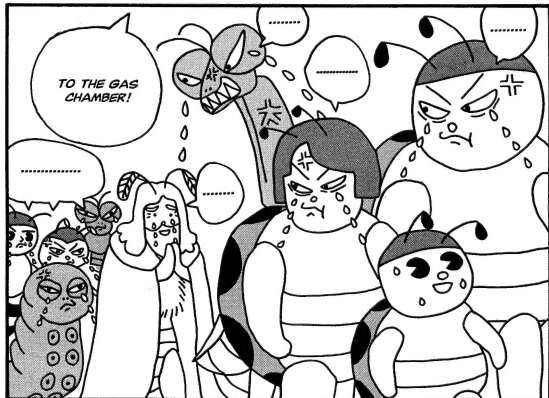
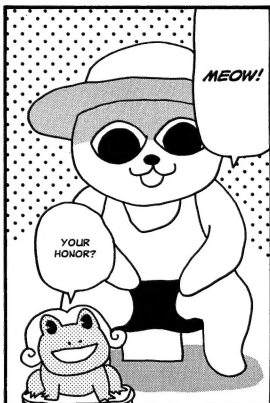
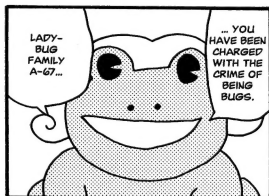












THE END

